

Primary Care and Public Health Commissioning Team
NHS England and NHS Improvement: Midlands
Corporate Office
Anglesey House
Towers Business Park
Wheelhouse Road
Rugeley
Staffordshire
WS15 1UL
0113 82549629

3rd April 2020

Dear LPC, LDC and LOC Chairs,

Identification of Primary Care – Pharmacy, Optometric and Dental staff for Covid 19 virus testing

You may be aware that a staff testing service has now been mobilised, supported by Boots/Amazon, at Beeston on Nottingham.

In the short term, NHSE/I will be co-ordinating arrangements for the testing of Primary Care across the East Midlands at this site.

From Tuesday 7th April 2020 we will have an allocation of 350 testing slots per day for Primary Care and Mental Health staff that meet the eligibility criteria. It is vital that we maximise capacity and fill all available slots.

We are requesting support from our local professional committees to help identify eligible staff for testing within the pharmacy, optometry and dental workforce and provide the requisite information to NHSE/I to facilitate the tests.

The support we are seeking is:

- Liaison with your contractors to identify where there are pressures on the delivery of services due to staff isolation.
- Where contractors are advising of pressures ask that they ensure that these staff meet the eligibility criteria for testing (see eligibility criteria in the presentation attached).
- Where eligibility is confirmed, request that contractors complete the data capture spreadsheet (attached) and send to the central COVID-19 testing email address: england.midlandscovidtesting@nhs.net.
- Support contractors to ensure that the information is sent by **12:00 noon** on the day before the test to allow adequate time for the NHSE/I team to contact those identified as requiring testing and arrange the booking.



I do hope that you will be able to support us in this ask which will help to alleviate the pressure primary care is currently experiencing.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Trish Thompson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the left.

Trish Thompson
Director of Primary Care and Public Health Commissioning